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**Abstract**

Method for controlled synchronization to an astable clock system, and reception unit corresponding thereto

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Soft synchronization using a slight change in the period duration of the clock signal (a) produced makes it possible to alter said clock signal such that a phase difference (c) between the stable clock signal (b) produced by a PLL (6) upon a synchronization signal (S) and the clock signal (a) produced for the application (4) is slowly reduced until the two clock signals (a, b) are in synchronism with one another after a certain time. This means that the clock signals a produced largely keep their period duration, so that there is the assurance that applications called cyclically with this clock pulse can be executed to the full extent with the necessary degree of accuracy. By virtue of fluctuations in the period duration of the first clock transmitter which are corrected by the PLL (6) being mapped onto the second clock transmitter, a phase difference (c) which is to be compensated for remains constant. The process of soft synchronization thus barely differs from the normal operating state.

**Figure 3**